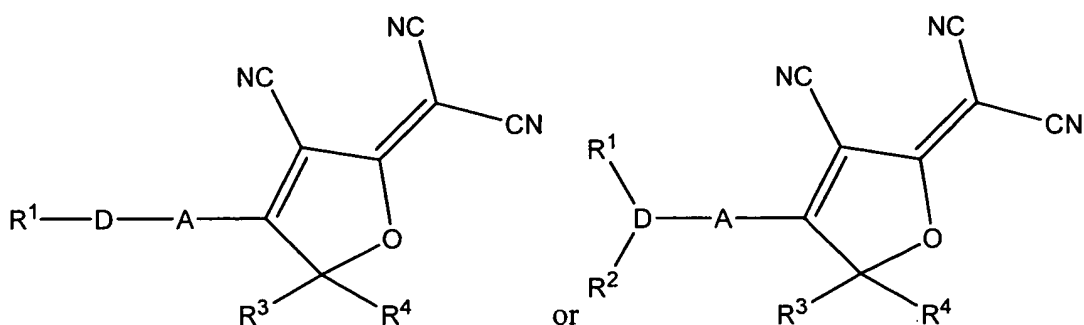


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims.

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of claim 1 wherein the donor group comprises an oxygen atom conjugated with A,~~ A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group comprising an oxygen atom conjugated with A;

A is a moiety having at least one multiple bond conjugated with the donor group and the 2-dicyanomethylen-3-cyano-2,5-dihydrofuran group;

R¹ is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

R² is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

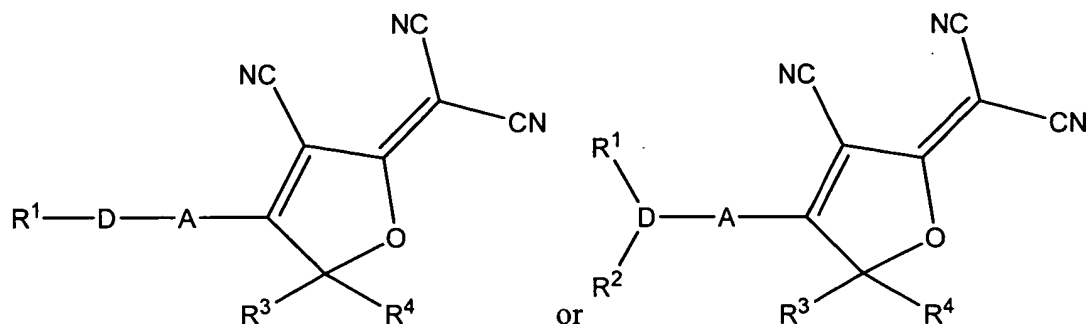
R³ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

R⁴ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).

4. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein the donor group comprises a sulfur atom conjugated with A~~ A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group comprising a sulfur atom conjugated with A;

A is a moiety having at least one multiple bond conjugated with the donor group and the 2-dicyanomethylen-3-cyano-2,5-dihydrofuran group;

R¹ is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

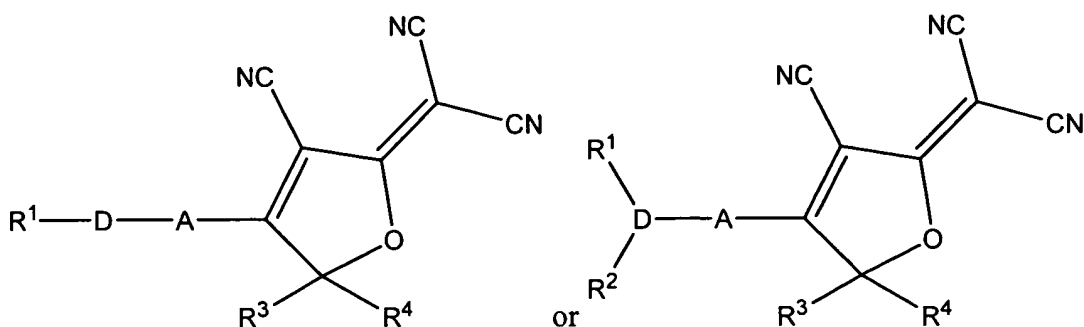
R² is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

R³ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

R⁴ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;
and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).

5. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein the donor group comprises a phosphorous atom conjugated with A~~ A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group comprising a phosphorous atom conjugated with A;

A is a moiety having at least one multiple bond conjugated with the donor group and the 2-dicyanomethylen-3-cyano-2,5-dihydrofuran group;

R¹ is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

R² is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

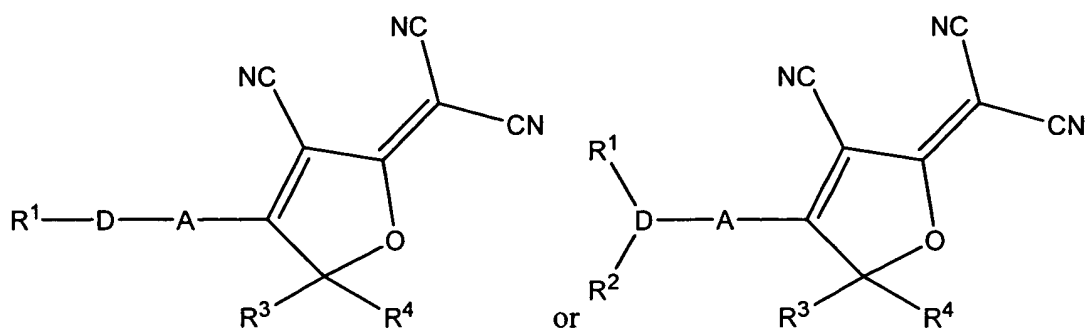
R³ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

R⁴ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;
and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).

6-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein A is thiophene, furan, pyrrole, imidazole, pyrazole, oxazole, thiazole, diazole, oxadiazole, or thiadiazole~~ A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group having at least one free electron pair conjugated with A;

A is thiophene, furan, pyrrole, imidazole, pyrazole, oxazole, thiazole, diazole, oxadiazole, or thiadiazole;

R¹ is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

R² is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

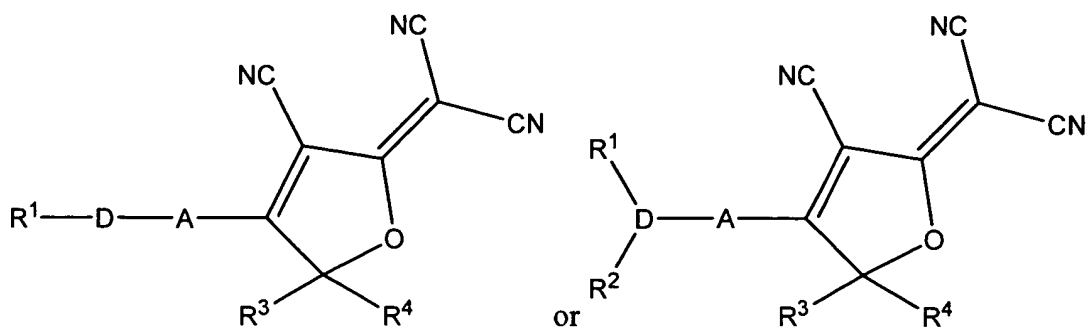
R³ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

R⁴ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;
and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein A comprises a tolane group~~ A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group having at least one free electron pair conjugated with A;

A comprises a tolane group;

R¹ is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

R² is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or hydrogen;

R³ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

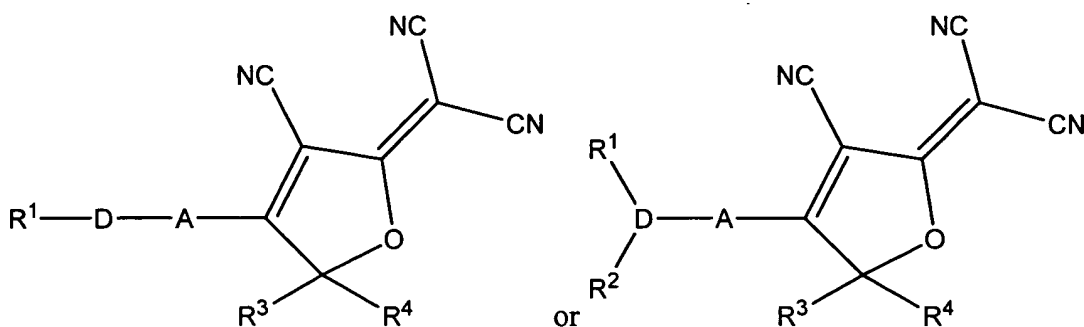
R⁴ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein the alkoxy alkyl group is methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxymethyl, or ethoxyethyl~~ A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group having at least one free electron pair conjugated with A;

A is a moiety having at least one multiple bond conjugated with the donor group and the 2-dicyanomethylen-3-cyano-2,5-dihydrofuran group;

R¹ is an alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxymethyl, ethoxyethyl or hydrogen;

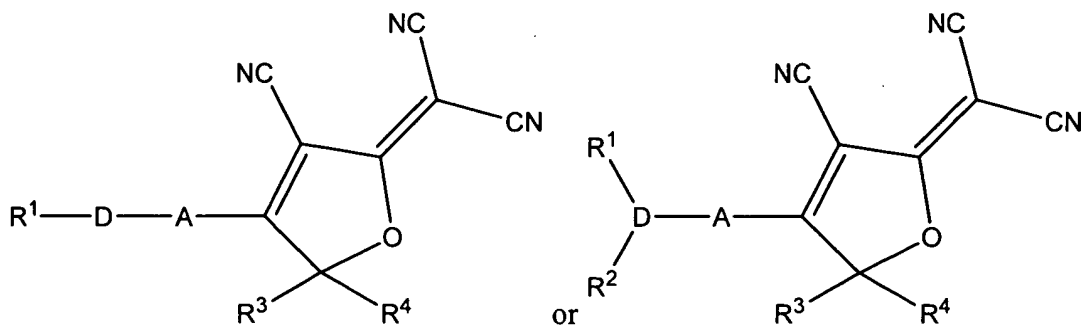
R² is an alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, methoxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxymethyl, ethoxyethyl or hydrogen;

R³ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;

R⁴ is an alkyl group, fluoroalkyl group, aromatic group, or substituted aromatic group;
and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).

13. ~~(Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the fluoroalkyl group is trifluoromethyl or pentafluoroethyl~~ A composition comprising a fluorophore compound, the fluorophore compound having the chemical structure:



wherein:

D is a donor group having at least one free electron pair conjugated with A;

A is a moiety having at least one multiple bond conjugated with the donor group and the
2-dicyanomethylen-3-cyano-2,5-dihydrofuran group;

R¹ is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or
hydrogen;

R² is an alkyl group, alkoxy alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, or
hydrogen;

R³ is an alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, trifluoromethyl or
pentafluoroethyl;

R⁴ is an alkyl group, aromatic group, substituted aromatic group, trifluoromethyl or
pentafluoroethyl; and

the fluorophore compound is not DCDHF-6 (2-[3-Cyano-4-(4-dihexylamino-phenyl)-5,5-
dimethyl-5H-furan-2-ylidene]-malononitrile; where A is a benzene ring, D is dihexylamine, R³ is
methyl, and R⁴ is methyl).

14-40. (Cancelled).